

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 23 and 32 to read as follows:

Claim 23 (twice amended)

A chewing gum ingredient which is a granulated additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, said ingredient being incorporated internally into said gum wherein said crunch providing ingredient consists essentially of isomalt, said ingredient prepared by a process wherein isomalt is heated at a temperature of above 130°C, cooled to form a solid isomalt product and granulated to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.

Claim 32 (twice amended)

A process for the preparation of a chewing gum ingredient which is a granulated additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, said ingredient being incorporated internally into said gum wherein said crunch providing ingredient consists essentially of isomalt, said process comprising:

- a) heating isomalt at a temperature of 130°C or higher;
- b) cooling to form a solid;
- c) granulating said solid to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.